

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/557,742
Response to OA dated October 29, 2007

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the Applicants regard as their invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **October 29, 2007**.

Claim 1, the only independent claim, is to a temporary stent having a first contractible and expandable stent body having a loosely-interlocked knitted structure formed by twisting at least one filament in a spiral fashion and being configured to be expanded to form a cylindrical shape as a normal state. The stent further has a first contractible and expandable proximal end configured to be expanded to form a tapered shape as a normal state, a middle strut maintained in a contracted configuration as a normal state, a second contractible and expandable proximal end configured to be expanded to form a tapered shape as a normal state, a second contractible and expandable stent body configured to be expanded to form a cylindrical shape as a normal state, a third contractible and expandable proximal end configured to be expanded to form a tapered shape as a normal state, and a strut, in serial order.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andersen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,146,416) in view of Hyodah et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,018,401). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present amendment to Claim 1 and the following remarks.

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Regarding Claim 1, the Office Action alleges that Andersen, et al. teaches a first expandable stent body (190), a first tapered portion (180), a middle strut (170), a second tapered section (160), a second expandable stent body (150), a third tapered section (140), and a strut in a contracted position (130), all in series.

The Office Action further alleges that Hyodah, et al. teaches a stent formed by twisting at least one filament in a spiral fashion.

It is respectfully submitted that the stent of Andersen et al. as best viewed in FIG. 1c of Andersen, et al., and which is described at column 4, lines 7-9, shows a region (170) which is compressed by a peristaltic organ when the organ contracts. The Office Action alleges that region (170) corresponds to the claimed "middle strut maintained in a contracted configuration", and that the tapered regions (160, 180), which are adjacent region (170), correspond to the claimed "contractible and expandible proximal end configured to be expanded to form a tapered shape as a normal shape".

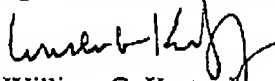
In Andersen et al., however, the "normal" shape is cylindrical, as shown in FIG. 1, and the stent only has the shape shown in FIG. 1c when an organ presses against it to change the shape. Anderson et al. fails to disclose or suggest a temporary stent having the claimed configuration of the middle strut, which is maintained contracted as a normal state, as now claimed in amended Claim 1. In view of the amendment to Claim 1 and the above remarks, removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

KRATZ, QUINTOS & HANSON, LLP



William G. Kratz, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 22,631

WGK/JNB/ak

Atty. Docket No. 050770
Suite 400
1420 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 659-2930



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In the Office Action, Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andersen et al. in view of Hyodah et al. and further in view of White et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,782,904). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present amendment to Claim 1 and the following remarks.

The Office Action alleges that Hyodah teaches the invention as claimed and as discussed above and that White et al. teaches sutures to adhere graft material to a wire frame.

It is respectfully submitted that White et al. does not disclose or suggest the claimed coupling in a manner that can be reversed.

In view of Claims 12-14 depending from Claim 1, and the above remarks, removal of the rejection is respectfully submitted.

In view of the aforementioned amendment and accompanying remarks, Claims 1-15, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.